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Letter dated 5 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit a statement on the Burundi peace process from Tom Butime, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Semakula **Kiwanuka**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

02-51278 (E) 070802

Annex to the letter dated 5 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement on the Burundi peace process

1. In his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Initiative on Burundi, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has been abreast of developments in the Burundi peace process, particularly with regard to:

(a) The efforts to secure a ceasefire between the Transitional Government in Bujumbura and the Burundian armed opposition groups, namely, CNDD/FDD [Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie/Front pour la défense de la démocratic] and PALIPEHUTU/FNL [Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu/Forces nationales pour la libération];

(b) The performance of the Transitional Government since its installation on 1 November 2001.

2. Despite the efforts of the facilitation team, spearheaded by Vice-President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, President Omar Bongo of Gabon and President Benjamin Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, to bring the Burundian belligerents to the negotiating table for a ceasefire, little has been done by the latter to meet the expectations of the region and indeed those of the Burundian people. The absence of a ceasefire has meant continued suffering of the ordinary and innocent people of Burundi.

3. Regarding the performance of the Transitional Government, differences have emerged between sections of the Burundian signatory parties to the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed on 28 August 2000. The differences mainly relate to the sharing of power.

4. Therefore, following consultations with the facilitation team on the overly delayed ceasefire talks and the need to ensure full implementation of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, including provisions governing the Transitional Government, the Chairman of the Regional Initiative:

(a) Hereby communicates that a timetable covering the period between now and the end of the ceasefire talks between the Burundian armed opposition and the Transitional Government has been agreed. The timetable provides for six days of internal consultations by the respective belligerents, with effect from 28 July 2002, and three weeks of actual ceasefire negotiations, with effect from 6 August 2002. The facilitation team shall see to its strict adherence, as the timetable allows the Burundian parties enough time to engage in internal consultations and ceasefire negotiations;

(b) Calls upon the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process to convene, in Bujumbura, as soon as possible, a meeting of all the signatories to the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in order to address the other issues confronting the Transitional Government.

5. In view of the foregoing definitive considerations, reached after due consultation with the facilitation team, the Chairman has decided to delay the Seventeenth Regional Summit on Burundi, originally planned to be held on 29 July

2002. The Summit should be convened after the set date at the end of the ceasefire negotiations. The exact dates shall be announced after due consultations with the regional leaders.

(*Signed*) Tom **Butime**
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs)/
Minister of Foreign Affairs